

EXTENDING AN INTERNET CONTENT DELIVERY NETWORK INTO AN ENTERPRISE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An Internet content delivery network deploys one or more CDN server regions in an enterprise and manages those regions as part of the Internet CDN. In one aspect of the invention, a CDN service provider (CDNSP) deploys one or more CDN regions behind an enterprise's corporate firewall(s). The regions are used to deliver Internet content – content that has been tagged or otherwise made available for delivery over the Internet from the CDN's content
10 servers. This content includes, for example, content that given content providers have identified is to be delivered by the CDN. In addition, the enterprise may tag intranet content, which is then also served from the CDN regions behind the firewall. Intranet content remains secure by virtue of using the enterprise's existing security infrastructure. In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the CDNSP implements access controls and deploys one or more CDN regions outside an enterprise's firewall(s) such that intranet content can be served from regions located outside the firewall(s). In this embodiment, the CDNSP can provide granular control, such as
15 permissions per groups of users. In this way, the CDNSP, in effect, extends a conventional virtual private network (VPN) to all or a portion of the ICDN, thereby enabling the CDNSP to use multiple regions and potentially thousands of content servers available to serve the
20 enterprise's internal content. In addition to making internal content available from the edge of the network, the CDNSP provides a mechanism by which an enterprise may share secure data with its business partner(s) without setting up any special infrastructure.